

1. A method in a networked computer system for offering to recipients of published works of authorship a license to use a work of authorship, comprising:

a. placing on a computer network a server that presents web pages, each web page associated with one of a plurality of works of authorship and with a unique work identifier, each web page presenting to any of a plurality of client computers on the network an offer of a license to use the associated work of authorship;

b. from a server on the computer network, providing to a client computer on the network one of said works of authorship and providing, associated with said work, a hotspot which, when selected at the client computer, provides the unique work identifier associated with said work for use as a part of a network address, thereby directing the client computer to the licensing web page for the associated work of authorship.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the hot spot includes an icon representing an action to obtain a license relating to the work of authorship.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the work of authorship is a text article having a beginning and an end and the hotspot is located at the end.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the unique work identifier is a universal resource name within the network.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the unique work identifier includes an identifier of the publisher of the work.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein each licensing web page includes one or more of: a title of the associated work, a name of an author of the associated work, and a name of a publisher of the associated work.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein each licensing web page includes a field in which a type of permission can be selected.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the work of authorship is a text article and the associated licensing web page includes a field in which a portion of the article to be used can be specified.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein each licensing web page includes a hotspot which, if selected, indicates that offered license terms have been accepted.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer network comprises the global computer network.

11. A method in a networked computer system for granting licenses to use a work of authorship and presenting records of said licenses, comprising:

a. placing on a computer network a server that presents web pages, each web page associated with one of a plurality of source works of authorship, each web page presenting to any one of a plurality of client computers an offer of a license to use the associated source work of authorship;

b. receiving at the server from one of said client computers, relating to one of said web pages, an acceptance of the license to use the associated source work of authorship;

c. in response to receiving the acceptance, creating on a server on the computer network a record associated with said accepted license and containing information about said accepted license, said record identified by a unique license identifier and accessible by said client computer; and

d. providing to said client computer said unique license identifier.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the license identifier comprises a number..

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the record on the server is accessible by a client computer in the form of a web page presenting terms of the accepted license.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of the server receiving from a client computer said unique license identifier and using said unique license identifier to find the record.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the server solicits from the client computer a name of the licensee and records the name in the record.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the server solicits from the client computer an address and sends to the client computer a message that printed copies of the work of authorship will be delivered to the specified address.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the record includes one or more of: a title of the associated work, a name of an author of the associated work, and a name of a publisher of the associated work.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the computer network comprises the global computer network.

19. A method on a computer network including at least one client system and at least one server system for creating a registration for a publisher of a set of works of authorship, the registration including terms for licensing such works of authorship so

that a person may review the terms and decide whether to license one or more of the works, the method comprising:

receiving on a server system from a client system publisher account information regarding a publisher to be registered and information regarding terms for licensing one or more of the publisher's set of works of authorship;

generating on the server system a record associated with the publisher, the record containing the terms for licensing one or more of the works of authorship and having an identifier associated with the publisher; and

providing the identifier from the server system to the client system, the identifier being included in subsequently published copies of works of authorship so that a person viewing one of the subsequently published works may use the identifier to access on the server system the terms for licensing the work.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the subsequently published work of authorship comprises content embodied in a web page, the identifier is a part of the web page, and the identifier specifies part or all of a uniform resource locator of a licensing web page that contains the terms for licensing the work of authorship.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the uniform resource locator is activated by a click on a hot spot in the corresponding web page.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the client system and the server system communicate via the global computer network to receive the information on the server system and provide the identifier from the server system to the client system.

23. A method on a computer network for registering terms for licensing works of authorship and for licensing the works of authorship by accepting the registered terms, the method comprising:

receiving on a server system from a first client system publisher account information and information regarding terms for licensing a publisher's set of works of authorship;

generating on the server system an identifier for the publisher's set of works of authorship from the received information;

generating on the server system a record associated with the identifier, the record containing the terms for licensing the works of authorship;

sending the identifier from the server system to the first client system, the identifier providing information that enables access to the terms for licensing on the server system;

including the identifier in subsequently published copies of the works of authorship so that a person viewing one of the works may access the terms for licensing the work on the server system;

using the identifier on a second client system to access the record on the server system containing the terms for licensing;

supplying information from the second client system to the server system to specify the desired license; and

on the server system, receiving from the second client system an acceptance of the terms for licensing.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the work of authorship comprises content embodied in a web page and the identifier is included in the web page, the identifier specifying a uniform resource locator of a licensing web page on the server system that contains the terms for licensing the work of authorship.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the uniform resource locator is activated by a click on a hot spot in the corresponding web page.

26. A server system for registering licensing terms for a publisher's set of works of authorship and granting copyright licenses for such works of authorship via a computer network, the server system comprising:

a registration component that receives registration information for a publisher's set of works of authorship from a first client system and generates a licensing terms record in a database corresponding to the set, the registration component also generating a code corresponding to the licensing terms record and thereafter providing the code to the first client system, the code including information enabling a second client system to access the license record; and

a clearance component that receives from the second client system a request to access a licensing terms record in the registration component, the request including user information and acceptance of terms of a license corresponding to the licensing terms record, and the clearance component providing to the second client system a clearance code corresponding to a license granted for the work of authorship associated with the licensing terms record and generating a corresponding license record for the granted license.

27. The server system of claim 26 wherein the request received by the clearance component from the second client system comprises a request from a web browser running on the second client system, the web browser generating the request from the publisher code.

28. The server system of claim 26 wherein the clearance component further provides along with the clearance code a copy of the work of authorship to the second client system.

29. The server system of claim 26 wherein each license record is accessible from a client computer as a web page corresponding to the clearance code associated with the record.

30. The server system of claim 26 wherein the registration and clearance components communicate with client systems over the global computer network.

31. A server system for granting licenses to use a work of authorship and providing information about such licenses, comprising:

- a database component that generates web pages, each web page being associated with at least one of a plurality of source works of authorship, and each web page presenting to any one of a plurality of users an offer of a license to use the associated source work of authorship;

- a receiving component that receives acceptances from users, each acceptance relating to one of the web pages and being an acceptance of a license to use each source work of authorship associated with the web page;

- a licensing record component that receives each acceptance, and, in response to receiving the acceptance, generates a record associated with the accepted license and containing information about the terms of the accepted license, the record being identified by a unique license identifier, and the licensing record component providing to the user supplying the acceptance the unique license identifier.

32. The server system of claim 31 wherein each of the plurality of users corresponds to a client system.

33. The server system of claim 31 wherein each unique license identifier comprises one of or both of: a visual representation conveying information enabling a user to access the record associated with the license and a machine-readable portion enabling the user to access the record through a web browser.

34. The server system of claim 31 wherein each record comprises a markup language file that may be displayed by a user through a web browser

35. A server system for registering a publisher's licensing terms for of a set of works of authorship on a computer network including at least one client system and at least one server system, the registration including terms for licensing such works of authorship so that a person may review the terms and decide whether to license one or more of the works, the server system comprising:

- a receiving component that receives from a client system publisher account information and information regarding terms for licensing works of authorship;

- a code generation component that generates a code from the publisher account information;

- a licensing terms record component that generates a record associated with the code, the record containing the terms for licensing works of authorship; and

- a transmission component that sends the code to the client system, the code being included in subsequently published copies of works of authorship so that a person viewing one of the works may access on the server system the terms for licensing the work.

36. The server system of claim 35 wherein the work of authorship comprises content embodied in a web page and the publisher's code is included in the web page and specifies a uniform resource locator of a licensing web page on the server system that contains terms for licensing the work of authorship.

37. The server system of claim 35 wherein each licensing terms record comprises a markup language file.--